

wavelengths of each of said fluorescence-emitting compound and said fluorescence-labeled nucleic acid;

c. incubating the solution of step a) with at least one unlabeled compound that may affect the binding of said fluorescence-emitting compound or said fluorescence-labeled nucleic acid to said steroid hormone receptor;

d. measuring the fluorescence polarization of said fluorescence-emitting compound and said fluorescence-labeled nucleic acid present in the solution from step c) at excitation and emission wavelengths corresponding to the excitation and emission wavelengths of each of said fluorescence-emitting compound and said fluorescence-labeled nucleic acid; and,

e. comparing the fluorescence polarization measurements of step b) with step d) to determine if said unlabeled compound affects the binding of said fluorescence-emitting compound or said fluorescence-labeled nucleic acid to the steroid hormone receptor.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the steroid hormone receptor is purified.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the purified steroid hormone is a recombinant steroid hormone receptor.

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4. (Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the difference in fluorescence polarization between the bound and unbound fluorescence-emitting compound and between the bound and unbound fluorescence-labeled nucleic acid is of sufficient magnitude to be suitable for use with a screening assay.

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7. (Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the steroid hormone receptor comprises an estrogen receptor.

Please add the following claim:

a7

9 13. (Added) The method of claim 8, wherein said nucleic acid is a double-stranded DNA molecule.

REMARKS

The Amendments

Applicants have amended the specification to update and to place in better form the cross-references to related applications. Applicants have also amended the specification to insert the issued United States patent number at page 7, line 24-25 and at page 7, line 30 – page 8, line 14 in place of the originally disclosed application Serial No. And, applicants have amended the specification at page 17, line 28 to correct the name and insert the location of Dynex Technologies, Inc.

Applicants have amended claims 1-5, and 7 and added claim 13 to define more accurately the invention. The preamble of claim 1 has been amended to recite "[a] method for measuring the ability of a compound to affect the binding of molecules to a